

Appln. No. 10/577,793
Amendment dated September 7, 2007
Reply to Office Action of June 21, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The June 21, 2007 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication that claims 2, 3 and 5-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged and appreciated.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

In the Office Action claims 1, 4, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 6,045,015 (Waltensphul et al.).

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In response, claim 1 is cancelled and claim 2 is amended to include limitations from claim 1, claim 2 being indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In addition, claim 5 is cancelled and claim 4 is amended to include limitations from claim 5, claim 5 being indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In addition, the dependency of claim 6 is changed from "5" to -- 4 -- and the dependency of claim 10 is changed from "1" to -- 2 -- to be consistent with the amendments to the claims upon which claims 6 and 10 depend.

In view of all the foregoing, claims 2-4 and 6-11 are in form for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

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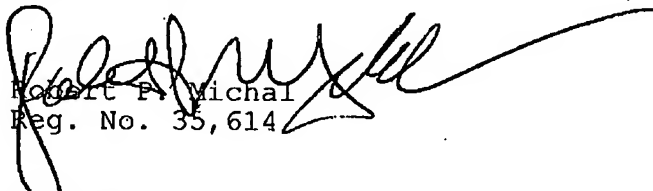
Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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